

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

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R 062215Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7699

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL QUEBEC BY POUCH

UNCLAS MONTREAL 867

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ELAB, PINT, CA

SUBJ: MONTREAL REACTION TO AIR STRIKE SETTLEMENT

REF: MONTREAL 867

ALTHOUGH MONTREAL AREA NEWSPAPERS OF JULY 6 CONTINUED TO REPORT DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE ISSUE OF BILINGUALISM IN AIR COMMUNICATIONS, THE MATTER IS NOT GETTING THE STAR BILLING THAT IT DID DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS. LA DEVOIR WAS THE ONLY MAJOR DAILY WHICH MADE EDITORIAL MENTION OF THE ISSUE. IT SAW BOURASSA'S MATANE SPEECH AS A MOVE TO GET EVEN WITH TRUDEAU FOR THE LOW BLOWS THE PM DEALT HIM IN QUEBEC CITY IN MARCH, 1976. BOURASSA IS A FEDERALIST WHEN IT SERVES HIS PURPOSES BUT FAVOR CULTURAL SOVEREIGNTY WHEN HE CONSIDERS THAT ADVANTAGEOUS FOR QUEBEC. AND THAT REALLY ANNOYS THE FEDERAL LIBERALS. ONCE AGAIN BOURASSA HAS OVERTAKEN THE SEPARATIST PARTI QUEBECOIS IN HIS CALLS FOR CULTURAL SOVEREIGNTY. HE IS PUTTING THE PQ ON THE DEFENSIVE AND SETTING THE STAGE FOR THE NEXT ELECTIONS. BUT BOURASSA MUST STILL WIN HIS CASE. THE CRISIS HAS NOT BEEN AVERTED. IF QUEBEC LOSES OUT IN THE AIR COMMUNICATIONS BILINGUALISM ISSUE, IT WON'T BE ENOUGH FOR IT TO HAVE CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES. IT WILL NEED NEW POWERS. IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CANNOT PROTECT FRANCOPHONE LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, QUEBEC

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WILL HAVE TO TAKE ON THE POWER TO DO SO. BUT IF BOURASSA ADOPTS

ONE BY ONE THE PLATFORM POSITIONS OF THE PQ, THE DISTINCTION
BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES WILL TEND TO DISAPPEAR. THE EDITORIALIST
WONDERS WHERE THIS WILL LEAVE THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A
PLACE FOR QUEBEC IN THE FEDERATION.
HARPER

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